The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who fills us with hope even in challenging times, use us to bring Your Kingdom to Earth.

Give to our lawmakers the inner strength to seek the truth and live by Your precepts. Help them to see eternal things amid the tempests of the temporal. Use them to help create a more nonviolent nation and world.

Free them from towering self-sufficiency as they habitually place their hope in You. Lord, make them tall enough in moral and spiritual stature to rise above the petty prejudices of our day, depending on You to direct their steps.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Young). The majority leader is recognized.

SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Nation watched in horror Friday as a senseless act of violence changed a community forever. The Senate and all Americans stand in mourning, sorrow, and sympathy with the students, faculty, staff, and families of Santa Fe High School in Texas.

No community should ever be subjected to such horror and heartbreak. Our hearts go out to the families of those killed, to the wounded who continue to battle injuries, to the first responders who leapt into action, and to the Santa Fe community that rallies around them.

VA MISSION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, in the coming days, the Senate will take up landmark legislation on one of our top priorities: providing more options and better care to America’s veterans.

The VA MISSION Act is a major milestone in an ongoing effort by Chairman ISAkers and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to ensure that our Nation fulfills its promises to our men and women in uniform, including more than 300,000 veterans in my home State of Kentucky.

What Senator ISAkers and his colleagues have put together is one of the most comprehensive reform packages for veterans’ healthcare since the VA was created in 1930. It builds on the substantial success of the Veterans Choice Act and harnesses provisions of 15 different Senate-introduced bills. This bill streamlines support systems, expands access to care, and provides new tools for attracting and retraining top caregivers.

The veteran who lives far from a VA facility but needs frequent followup care will now have easier access to local providers and walk-in clinics. The wounded warrior navigating difficult pain management routines will now be served by providers with clearer guidelines for opioid prescriptions. The retired servicemember who relies on a family caregiver will rest assured of expanded eligibility and program benefits for veterans of all eras.

It is hardly surprising that this bill has such a broad bipartisan coalition of support, including the endorsement of 38 of the Nation’s leading veterans advocacy organizations. I look forward enthusiastically to considering it in the coming days.

I urge every one of my colleagues to support this legislation and send it to the President for his signature. It is not merely our duty but our privilege to improve and enhance the care available to those who have given so much.

NOMINATION OF DANA BAIocco

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, later today we will consider the nomination of Dana Baiocco, the President’s choice to join the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Ms. Baiocco’s résumé speaks for itself. After receiving her J.D. cum laude from Duquesne University, she clerked in the Western District of Pennsylvania before launching an impressive career in private practice.

For two decades she has stood at the center of complicated cases and gained national recognition for her mastery of the legal questions surrounding consumer safety. This experience makes Ms. Baiocco an ideal candidate to help the CPSC protect consumers effectively and efficiently without imposing unnecessary barriers to free enterprise.

Testifying before our colleagues on the Commerce Committee, she pledged to seek that balance with “transparency” and an “open door policy” and to remain “guided by the rule of law.”

I look forward to advancing this qualified nominee when we vote this afternoon and urge all of my colleagues to join me.
CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dana Balocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2017. 

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

NAFTA

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am here today to discuss new legislation to help Puerto Rico gain a stronger fiscal footing, but before turning to that, I would like to make a few comments regarding the current NAFTA trade talks.

Over the past few weeks, there has been a lot in the press about potential deadlines for concluding negotiations on NAFTA. While speculation about timelines is natural, let me be clear. As I have said from the beginning of these talks, the most important thing for determining when and how Congress will vote on an eventual North American Free Trade Agreement outcome is the quality of the agreement.

I understand that the current negotiations are about an existing agreement that American businesses and workers rely on in dealing with two of our largest trading partners. I understand that continuing negotiations mean a level of uncertainty about these important relationships will continue to persist. Nevertheless, it is critical that the administration take the time necessary to get these negotiations right. I believe the administration understands that.

A modernized NAFTA will help American businesses and workers only if it includes strong and enforceable protections for America’s creators and innovators, supports cross-border data flows, and maintains and expands market access for American goods and services exported to the Canadian and Mexican markets.

The bottom line: Substance is what matters, and we should not allow other considerations to impede achieving our goals.

I remain confident that with continued discussions between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, we can create a strong agreement that will meet the high standards set by Congress in trade promotion authority. I will continue to support the administration in achieving that outcome.

Mr. President, having said my piece about NAFTA, I would like to turn to the main purpose for which I am standing here.

Last Thursday, I introduced a bill, cosponsored by Senator RUBIO, titled the Puerto Rico Economic Empowerment Act of 2018. The bill works to help the people in Puerto Rico as they continue to face a stagnant economy and recover from massive damage caused by recent hurricanes.

This bill will be a critical step toward resurrecting growth in Puerto Rico. It directly targets relief to Puerto Ricans themselves and small businesses on the island.

In brief, the bill provides the following:

First, the bill provides a payroll tax holiday for employees in Puerto Rico for 2 years, cutting their payroll taxes in half in order to give economic relief to the hard-working people of Puerto Rico who face an economy that has been stagnant and mismanaged for far too long.

Second, the bill provides equal treatment with respect to the Federal child tax credit for Puerto Rican families with one or two children, not just for those who have three or more. This will provide more equitable treatment for Puerto Rican families with respect to the Federal child tax credit, to help families to reduce child poverty.

Third, the bill provides greater flexibility for Puerto Rico in various Small Business Administration programs to assist Puerto Rico’s small businesses owners during a time of prolonged economic downturn.

Fourth, the bill confronts the long-standing problem in trying to monitor Puerto Rico’s economy, which stems from lack of inclusion of Puerto Rico in many Federal statistical surveys. The bill also calls for the establishment of a Federal statistical research data center in Puerto Rico.

These and other provisions in the bill follow recommendations of the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico. I had the opportunity of chairing that task force with four Members from the House and four Members from the Senate. We also made sure the task force was evenly split with regard to political affiliation. I know such even-handed bipartisanship and compromise is rare around here, but we were able to do it, and we came up with a 125-page report that made many different suggestions. Not wanting that work to go to waste, Senator RUBIO and I have been working hard to draft those proposals into this bill, and I am confident it truly embodies the purpose and bipartisan spirit of that bicameral task force. Although I do not have a score on the bill yet, previous scores on similar provisions would add up to over $3.25 billion in relief, largely in tax relief to our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico. Once I obtain an updated score, I will recalibrate the offset accordingly, if necessary.

In the meantime, the fiscal cost of the bill is entirely offset by redirecting funds from the Prevention and Public
Health Fund established under the so-called Affordable Care Act. Redirecting from that fund helped provide offsets for the 21st Century Cures Act and for the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, both of which received bipartisan support. I have discussed my concerns with Senator RUMIO and many in support of this bill. After all, our prior efforts have not solved many of the ongoing issues in Puerto Rico. For example, toward the end of 2015, we passed PROMESA into law. PROMESA was the result of the efforts by the Obama administration officials to share in Puerto Rico’s outstanding debt obligations. It largely took their bankruptcy scheme but usefully added provisions intended to spark economic development in Puerto Rico, particularly in the energy space. One promise of PROMESA touted by the Obama administration officials was that it would circumvent a viscous and wasteful sequence of lawsuits. Theoretically, it was going to facilitate such a credit on the island. They have every right and ability to institute such a credit on the island. Some Members seemed genuinely concerned, while others seemed more interested in trying to cast doubts on or politicize the disaster response from the Federal Government led by the administration. I remain committed to working with anyone from either side to help and support the people of Puerto Rico.

However, the government of Puerto Rico has been and remains largely opaque. As just one example, I have asked government officials in Puerto Rico for audited financial statements for approximately 3 years now. Let me repeat that, I have been waiting nearly 3 years for audited financial statements from Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, to the best of my knowledge, the government of Puerto Rico has not provided audited financial statements for nearly 3 years now. I have been clear about my concerns that administration of such a provision carries with it many possible problems, as highlighted by the non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation. Moreover, Puerto Rico already had its earned-income tax credit, which it subsequently did away with. It seems to want to resurrect the idea now, and I continue to hear from some, including former Obama administration officials, that I must include access for Puerto Rico to the earned-income tax credit. I have been clear about my concerns that administration of such a provision carries with it many possible problems, as highlighted by the non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation. Moreover, Puerto Rico already had its earned-income tax credit, which it subsequently did away with. It seems to want to resurrect the idea now, and I continue to hear from some, including former Obama administration officials, that I must include access for Puerto Rico to the earned-income tax credit. I have been clear about my concerns that administration of such a provision carries with it many possible problems, as highlighted by the non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation. Moreover, Puerto Rico already had its earned-income tax credit, which it subsequently did away with. It seems to want to resurrect the idea now, and I continue to hear from some, including former Obama administration officials, that I must include access for Puerto Rico to the earned-income tax credit. I have been clear about my concerns that administration of such a provision carries with it many possible problems, as highlighted by the non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation. Moreover, Puerto Rico already had its earned-income tax credit, which it subsequently did away with. It seems to want to resurrect the idea now, and I continue to hear from some, including former Obama administration officials, that I must include access for Puerto Rico to the earned-income tax credit.
Unfortunately, it seems too strong a possibility that President Trump is headed down the road of not being strong. The President said this morning: “China has agreed to buy massive amounts of ADDITIONAL Farm/Agricultural, Energy, and other goods and products...” Mnuchin, hardly a tower of strength on this issue, has said that the administration would “follow this up” on this vague commitment and that $150 billion in proposed tariffs would be put “on hold.”

It is deeply disappointing that thus far President Trump has won no concessions on intellectual property and has locked in no new market access. In reality, there were not even specific commitments of U.S. good purchases, not that such a commitment would undo the damage China continues to do to us in its other activities.

If nothing else changes, this deal is a win-win for China. They avoid tough actions on intellectual property and get us committed relatively small relief by buying some goods. China’s trade negotiators must be laughing themselves all the way back to Beijing. They know what they are doing. They are playing us for fools. A temporary purchase of some goods, while China continues to steal our family jewels, the things that have made America great, the intellectual property, the know-how in the highest end industries—it makes no sense. China is pushing the President around, and he seems to accept it.

Worse still, the President’s team is still talking about giving relief to China’s state-backed telecommunications giant, ZTE, a company that violated our sanctions laws and is considered a national security threat. It is totally backward. The way to win real concessions from China is to stay tough, not to bluster and then back off at the first sign of friction.

So I say to President Trump, who knows I genuinely want him to succeed with China: Stay strong. Don’t back off on sanctions on ZTE. You have to pursue the course, or China will continue to enjoy the upper hand.

Congress also has a say on this issue. I was gratified to see that last week, Democrats and Republicans, in a House Appropriations subcommittee, approved a measure that would block the President from weakening sanctions on ZTE. The Premcorats will also consider additional measures, if necessary, to block relief for ZTE, and we hope our Republican colleagues will join us in that effort.

The United States cannot let China continue to steal America’s livelihood, our intellectual property, and flout international trade laws. If President Trump doesn’t get tough with them now, China will know he is willing to back down at the first sign of resistance. It will be a sad day for America—America’s future wealth, and for our future prosperity. It will help make China replace us as No. 1. It is crucial.

TRADE WITH CHINA

Mr. President, on the matter of ongoing trade negotiations with China, as I have mentioned this before, but here is one example that pains me, and it is a typical, GE employs thousands in Schenectady. They have intellectual property and know-how to make turbines spin very fast and not overheat, but China wouldn’t let them sell them. So what did they do? The Chinese blackmailed them, and GE went along. There is a 51-49 company that now makes those turbines in China. That is great for the heads of GE, great for their board, and great for the stock for a few years. But after that, once China and Schenectady ends, the United States will have lost a major advantage in the energy business. That is making our country weak in all directions.

When President Trump threatened tariffs and investment restrictions in the face of China’s blatant theft and extortion of our intellectual property, I gave the President a pat on the back—every other community that lives at the mercy of the gaping loopholes in our gun laws.

Finally, Mr. President, on the probe into Putin’s interference in our elections, a series of tweets yesterday, President Trump demanded that the Justice Department start a counter-investigation into the investigation itself. That he would issue such an absurd and abusive demand based on no evidence shows just how little regard the President has for the rule of law.

President Trump seems to have the terrifyingly misguided view that the Department of Justice is there to protect his political interests and prosecute his enemies. It is not. The Department of Justice is required to follow the law, not the political bidding of the President, particularly when they are investigating him. The President’s demand is a blatant abuse of Executive power, an ill-informed, sloppy attempt to discredit a duly constituted investigation led by career professionals, the President is reportedly meeting with Justice Department officials to press his case, even after they have already called on the inspector general to look into this matter. The President’s behavior is the kind of grossly autocratic approach we would expect from a authoritarian, not a mature democracy. By now, we should all recognize that President Trump’s latest demand is just another example of a relentless campaign to distract from the serious wrongdoing being uncovered by the Russia probe.

This weekend, it was reported that members of President Trump’s inner circle met with emissaries and companies from several other foreign countries during the campaign to discuss manipulation of American voters in order to sway the election. This is exactly what our Founding Fathers feared—attempts by foreign capitals to influence American elections. As a result, the President seems to have the absurd and abusive demand based on no evidence shows just how little regard the President has for the rule of law. Russia investigation
would tell you that is not how criminal investigations operate. It is hard to view these requests as anything but a coordinated campaign with the White House to interfere with or impede Mr. Mueller’s investigation. Frankly, these kinds of actions are enabling and encourage the President to test the bounds of the rule of law in this country. When the President sees Republicans in Congress go after the special counsel investigation, he feels even more emboldened, and that is a shame for our country, broadly defined in history.

There is a disturbing trend emerging. Chairman NUNES and the Republicans on the Hill concoct a plan to tear down the chain of command of the Mueller investigation. They feed it to the right-wing press, which churns out innuendo-laden and often factually inaccurate story after story. The President tweets, and the fringe conspiracy theories of far-right Republicans in Congress thrive on the front pages of mainstream media outlets, all in the service of the President's despicable attempt to distract and deflect from the legitimate probe into Russia’s interference in our elections.

Republican, Independent— it shouldn’t matter—all Americans should want Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein and Special Counsel Mueller to continue the Russia probe and follow the facts to their conclusion without interference and without intimidation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORKNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mrs. ENNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. CORKNYN. Madam President, to my shock and surprise, 10 people were killed Friday in a little town outside of Houston known as Santa Fe, at Santa Fe High School, about 20 miles northeast of Galveston, TX. As we know now, a male student walked into an art class with a pistol and a shotgun that he got from his parents, perhaps without their knowledge. After stashing makeshift explosives elsewhere, he then engaged in a killing spree. The dead included eight students and two teachers. A brave police officer was among the 13 wounded.

When I heard of the shooting, I made plans to immediately go to Santa Fe, where I met with Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, Senator CRUZ, and others, and we spoke to the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and FBI representatives, as well as the Santa Fe Independent School District officials to find out what happened. The families there, of course, remain in shock that something so terrible could happen in their small, tucked away little community—one that was recently shaken by Hurricane Harvey last fall and had previously seemed far removed from the violence that has touched other parts of the country.

As I said last Friday, we have seen this before. Just last fall, we saw a similar story unfold in Sutherland Springs, outside of San Antonio, when a man who was disgraced in the military service, then we saw it in Florida earlier this year at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland. Unfortunately, in recent years there have been plenty of examples—too many examples, actually—with too many lives lost and far too few solutions for families reeling from the aftermath.

There are two things that strike me as clear, though. The first is that we need to better protect our students, secure our schools, and keep weapons out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves and others. The second thing is to acknowledge that we haven’t yet been able to do this effectively. Something is wrong, because these school shootings keep happening.

It is no coincidence that these shootings mostly happen at public schools—or soft targets—and the shooters are usually male teenagers who attended these schools. These young people, I should add, are surrounded by a culture that condones violence on one hand, excoriating public officials for not doing more to prevent it, but celebrating violence on television, in movies, and in video games, which at least has the potential to desensitize especially vulnerable young people.

Many proposals on how to address this pervasive problem focus on the guns themselves, not on the individuals who actually use them. They focus on restricting access to guns or banning specific firearms for even law-abiding citizens. But any proposed fixes must also consider the root nature of the problem: that is, the deranged minds, the twisted rationalizations, and the tragic decisions of the people who commit these terrible acts of violence.

These shooters are obviously incapable of self-regulating their own behavior. How could we possibly address that? That is part of what we need to do to condemn violence, on one hand, someone only if a person—a very sick or a very bad person—pulls the trigger.

So what have we done here in Congress to try to respond, as incompletely as I know we have? Well, last year, we introduced a bill called the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act, which was signed by President Obama in 2016. It is part of the answer. It provides more resources for communities and schools and mental health providers to deal with people before they fall off the rails or others. But there is more we can do, certainly in that space. The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has expanded the use of technology that can help us better utilize tele-medicine to reach out to those in a mental health crisis and offer them an alternative course of treatment when they don’t otherwise have access. We should consider that and other ideas in the days ahead.

The parents that lost their sons and daughters at Santa Fe High School are obviously still grieving today, and we should be grieving as well, not just for the people who lost their lives but also for the state of our Nation—one that continues to watch its young people self-destruct, engaging in violence that takes the lives of brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, friends, and classmates.

We have been told in recent days that grief and prayers are not enough. I agree. It is not enough to send our condolences to communities like Santa Fe. We need to look the families of the victims in the eyes and say: Here are the concrete steps we have taken and intend to take to make sure something like this never happens again.

I believe we did this last year, on a broad, bipartisan basis by passing legislation called the Fix NICS Act. Passing that bill was important because the last time I saw a major shooting in my State, it was at Sutherland Springs, where a man had been discharged less than honorably from the Air Force for domestic violence convictions fell through the cracks of our background check system. He was able to lie and buy a firearm, even though, under existing law, he was disqualified and prohibited from doing so. But because of the broken background check system, he was able to get away with it. Our Fix NICS Act will help to fix that broken background check system. It was widely supported by Republicans and Democrats. We had 78 cosponsors in the Senate alone, demonstrating that solutions can enjoy broad bipartisan support if they actually make sense as opposed to engaging in ideological battles.

I am glad Congress worked together also to pass the STOP School Violence Act earlier this year, which I was proud to cosponsor. This legislation will help to provide our schools with the tools and resources they need to prevent violence through better equipment, planning, training, safety infrastructure, and law enforcement presence on campus. In this year’s appropriations bill, we were able to allocate $75 million to start getting this initiative off the ground.

Now, people wonder: Can we possibly do this? Can we succeed in making our schools a safe place for mothers and fathers to send their children? Can we do it in a way where they are confident that everything humanly possible is being done to protect them? Well, I am not suggesting that we turn them into an airport, but my colleagues will recall that post-9/11, we should consider that earlier on. Our Nation’s air travel in such a way as to make it virtually impervious to terrorist attacks. I think given the proper
attention, the creative thinking, and the proper resources, we can also come together and make our schools imper- vious to this sort of attack in the fu- ture. If we can do it at our Nation’s air- ports against terrorist attacks, we can do it in our communities and in our local high schools.

Finally—and thank goodness—we have seen the Justice Department prioritize firearm prosecutions with the number of defendants charged with unlawful firearms possession increasing signifi- cantly over the past few years. This is because of Attorney General Jeff Ses- sions, who has made this a priority, and thank goodness for that. It has long been overdue. U.S. attorneys are now focused on enforcing laws that criminalize gun buyers who lie on their Federal background check. Previously, somebody could come in and lie on the background check, get caught, and nothing would ever happen to them. Now, thanks to the Attorney General and the U.S. attorneys, people are being prosecuted for lying, acting as a further deterrent on people who are fel- onies or otherwise disqualified from leg- ally purchasing firearms. And vehi- cles like Project Safe Neighborhoods, which the Senate passed unanimously last week, would fund task forces that target serious firearm offenders and get them off the streets.

All of this is a good start, but the shooting in Santa Fe shows we have a long way to go because every one of these shootings seems to be a little bit different.

Obviously, in Sutherland Springs, the failure seemed to be a background check system which allowed the shoot- er to buy a firearm, lie on the back- ground check system, and not get caught. In places like Las Vegas, the bump stock allowed the person to es- sentially turn a semiautomatic rifle into an automatic weapon, which was otherwise illegal. We all learned about bump stocks. As an avid shooter and hunter myself, I had never heard about it before. Now the President has taken care of that problem.

We have acted in the wake of Park- land, FL, to try to ensure we get re- sources to our schools so they can bet- ter protect their students and deal with other aspects of this challenge, but we need to be more methodical in figuring out the solutions, then seeing what, if any, solutions would have ac- tually worked. We need to look to see if those same proposals would have prevented other similar events.

In the case of Santa Fe, we know the shooter was somewhat socially with- drawn, but he was also a high school athlete and involved in his church. He posted troubling pictures and state- ments on social media, but as Governor Abbott said, he was not your typical troubled youth who people guessed one day might shoot. We also know Santa Fe High School had lockdown drills recently and that police officers were stationed on cam- pus. Both of these likely prevented the event from becoming much worse: so good for them for the lockdown drills and having police officers on campus. We should be grateful for that, even in the wake of so much violence that leaves us with so many unanswered questions.

One of the two officers who rushed in to stop the shooter was John Barnes, who was, himself, shot by the gunman. He is a former Houston police officer who now works for the Santa Fe Inde- pendent School District. I am told his heart stopped twice while doctors and paramedics were trying to stem his bleeding, but he is a fighter and he held on. He is now in critical but stable condi- tion in Galveston. We, of course, ap- preciate him and all other first re- sponders and the other officers who courageously confronted the shooter and saved other lives. We wish Officer Barnes and his entire family the best as he fully recovers from his injury.

Another officer, from accounts of the shooting, is Chris- topher Stone, a 17-year-old junior who, once the shooting started, blocked the classroom door, protecting his fellow students from the gunman. Tragically, when the shooter went through the door, Christopher Stone was hit, and he did not survive, but we will remember him and all the other lives which were lost this week as we pledge to do bet- ter, to work harder, to work together, and to find new ways to protect our schools and our children from harm.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I rise to speak today in the wake of an- other tragic school shooting. This time, it was in Texas. Ten innocent people—eight students and two teachers—were gunned down Friday when a gunman walked into a high school in East Texas and opened fire.

Tragedies such as this are becoming too common in our society. At some point, we have to say enough is enough. How many of these must we suffer? Just 3 months ago, I stood right here on the Senate floor after 17 people were killed at MSD High School in Park- land, FL. I pleaded with our colleagues to set aside partisan politics and work together to enact commonsense re- forms that will help make what hap- pened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School a pivotal moment in our Nation’s history—not because it was one of the deadliest school shootings, but because back then, 3 months ago, it was the last one. I hoped it would be the last one.

I am so proud of the students who spoke out and the parents who spoke out, such as Fred Guttenberg, whose daughter was gunned down as she was trying to flee to the other end of the hall. That bullet from that AR-15 caught her right in the spinal cord just as she was about to exit the hall. I thank Fred and others who have been speaking out, especially the students—so eloquent, so bold.

We all hoped that the shooting in Parkland was going to be the last one, but it was not. Here we go again. With this tragedy that took place in Park- land so fresh in our minds, here we go again. Our students deserve better. You have seen the articles since Friday’s shooting about how students are frightened that their school will be next. Our schools and our communities deserve better. America deserves better than this. Our students certainly de- serve better.

Since the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school shooting, this Congress has passed two bills into law—only two. While this Senator supported both of those, they alone are not nearly enough. We can and we must do more.

You have heard me say over and over that we need to buy assault weapons and the long clips. We need to close the gun show loophole. We need a com- prehensive, universal background check for the sale or the transfer of any firearm, regardless of where it is purchased.

By the way, those comprehensive background checks would have picked up red flags on the shooter in Park- land, who had some real mental prob- lems. They would have also picked up the shooter in the Orlando Pulse night- club 2 years ago because he had been on the terrorist watch list and had been taken off. If those kinds of things are picked up in a comprehensive back- ground check, we can, of course, also pick up on the person who goes to buy a gun, those kinds of things will be picked up.

We also need to do more to provide our students with access to the mental health professionals they need. Because of the NRA locking down their votes, if we are not going to get anything on assa- ult weapons or the gun show loophole or a comprehensive background check, then surely we ought to be able to come together in a bipartisan way to do something about mental health.

I have met with parents and teachers and students across the State of Flori- da, and the one topic that keeps com- ing up is the lack of mental health professionals that are available. How true is that in society at large? We are talking about school violence perpetrated by other students.

You will not like this statistic. Flori- da has 1 school psychologist for every 500 to 700 students, that means Florida only has about one-fourth of the number of school psychologists it needs to properly care for its stu- dents—one-fourth, 25 percent. And that
is just Florida. Nationally, 35 million children in this country have had at least 1 traumatic experience, and nearly two-thirds of children have been exposed to violence. That is why we have another piece of legislation that Senators also support to provide better care to children and their families who have experienced trauma.

We have finally done something with regard to PTSD and our veterans. Everyone understands that you don’t actually have to have an injury to have PTSD. As a matter of fact, it happened for me yourself last year. We are getting mental health counseling for our veterans, particularly those who have come home from a war zone.

Are these children now experiencing a war zone? Is the trauma they are experiencing at ages 12 through 17, at that tender age, not comparable to some of the trauma our young soldiers are now experiencing?

If we are going to be serious about curbing this type of violence that we are going to continue to see in children’s schools—oh Lordy, we hoped that Parkland was the last one, but it was not, and there are going to be more. If we are going to be serious about this, we should hire more school counselors, social workers, psychologists, and other mental health professionals to get ahead of the problem and ensure that any student who needs help is able to get it.

Launched this week, midweek, I will be introducing legislation aimed at doing exactly that—increasing the number of mental health professionals in our children’s schools across the country. Kids suffering from trauma or depression or any other sort of mental problems shouldn’t be denied the help they need because the school or the school district can’t afford it.

The bill will file on Wednesday—I hope with a whole bunch of Senators sponsoring—it will provide grants to colleges and universities that set up programs to train future school counselors, social workers, psychologists, and other mental health professionals in the school districts that need them the most. It will create a Federal student loan forgiveness program for mental health professionals who take jobs in the districts that need them. That has often been a problem—not only the supply but getting the supply in the schools that need them. This is not unlike the loan forgiveness we give to government workers or to, for example, doctors who will serve, practice, in an underserved area, such as a rural area. We do it for those professionals; let’s do it for the mental health workers who are desperately needed in underserved areas, such as—which is obviously becoming apparent—our schools.

When we give our students the tools they need to succeed, such as access to mental health treatment, everyone is going to benefit. Our students know this. They have been asking for our help to make these services more available. Parents, teachers, and school administrators across the country know this, too, and they are pleading for Congress to act.

Let’s give our schools and our communities the help they need, the help they have been asking for. Let’s start taking steps today to change the course in which the country finds itself with another school shooting last Friday. I hope many Senators cosponsor this legislation. We can’t allow what happened in Parkland, FL, and in San Diego, TX, to become the new normal in this country. We have to do more to protect our kids in school and ensure that any student who needs mental health services is able to get those services.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to Rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2017.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HJORTZIK), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCARTHY). Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?
Ridge Park High School Baseball coach Bill Miller. The winningest coach in the history of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, KHSSAA, Bill unfortunately passed away after a yearlong struggle with cancer at 68. 

Please note that this text is a natural reading of the document and does not contain any hallucinations.
interrogation program under her leadership, but I retain serious doubts that she would stand up to President Trump if he directed her to carry out another legal, but morally questionable activity in the future. Taken together, Ms. Haspel's lack of transparency, unwillingness to discuss torture, and inability to learn from past mistakes do not give me confidence that she is the right person to lead the CIA. I, therefore, voted no on her nomination.

20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, it is with sadness and reflection that I take a moment today to remember the shooting at Thurston High School in Springfield, OR, 20 years ago.

At the time, we thought of Thurston as a tragic anomaly and not as the forerunner of the horrific epidemic of gun violence in our schools we are living today. This plaque rips away the lives of children and teachers, forever wounding the body and spirit of entire communities which never truly heal.

Twenty years have passed since a 15-year-old Thurston student went to his school, after killing his parents in their home, and opened fire on his classmates, but the rollcall of mass shootings and gun violence continues to grow. In my own home State of Oregon, for the past 20 years, we endured Thurston, Reynolds High School, Clackamas Town Center, and Umpqua Community College, among other acts of gun violence. Every time, we say this will be the last, and every time, it is not.

Even one, the shooting at Thurston, is too long a list, in my book; yet, tragically, this epidemic of gun violence struck yet another community just last week in Santa Fe, Texas.

The students, teachers, families, and communities devastated by the mass shootings at Thurston, Newtown, Parkland, Santa Fe, and all of those not listed here deserve and rightfully demand so much more than thoughts and prayers.

They demand action. Congress must push back against special interests that have blocked every reasonable effort to protect our children and communities from gun violence. Congress must finally honor the lives lost and those many lives that have been so irrevocably altered by passing common sense gun laws.

All of our students and teachers and all of their families and communities deserve to go about their regular daily lives free from the fear of gun violence. Sadly, today, that is not our reality.

When I see the students and young people who organized the March for Our Lives in our Nation's Capital, in Oregon, and across the country, I see the spirit of the Thurston youngsters, violently stolen from their families and loved ones. Let's honor them with action to protect our future.

REMEMBERING REVEREND W.G. HARDY, JR.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on February 2, Portland lost a dedicated man of faith, Rev. W.G. Hardy, Jr. As our community mourns the loss of this great spiritual leader, we also pause to celebrate all he did for our community.

During his career that Pastor Hardy served as senior pastor of the Highland Christian Center in northeast Portland, he committed himself heart and soul to helping every person who walked through the doors of his church, as well he did not.

Preaching wasn't just a duty for Pastor Hardy; it was a calling that helped Portland be a better place to live. Many will remember Pastor Hardy inviting any and all to come to his church. Often you would see him on the weekends supporting the church's many activities and events. He spent endless hours advocating for those who are homeless, working with nonprofits and local governments to find solutions on mental illness, and developing programs to prevent young people from falling through the cracks.

Pastor Hardy was justifiably proud that Highland Christian Center hosted the annual "Keep Alive the Dream" events, which earned official designa-
tion from the National Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. Over the years, I had the fortune of attending this unique program, recognized as the largest tribute to Dr. King in the State of Oregon. As a third-generation preacher, Pastor Hardy understood and valued the power of faith. He was steadfast in his advocacy and had the ear and phone numbers of countless city, county, and State leaders. His passion and energy for this work showed in his powerful and poignant sermons. Every time I would see Pastor Hardy, whether after one of his many inspiring services or during a visit to Washington, DC, he always had a smile on his face and an important issue to discuss.

Through his beloved wife, Ali Hardy, his children, grandchildren, and a host of other loving relatives, Pastor Hardy's life and legacy will last forever throughout Portland. His good work will continue through the leaders he helped lift up and create. While this is a loss for many, the gains he made will be felt by many for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL "MIKE" BOURRET

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding career of a leader in workforce development in the State of Maine. Michael "Mike" Bourret, of Bailey Island, ME, is retiring after 36 years of professional experience in workforce development, most recently in his position as executive director of Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc. From his first days in the early 1980s as an employment counselor in western Maine, Mike has held a number of leadership positions in which he has developed greater access to—and opportunities for individuals in—workforce development programs.

Bourret dedicated his life to the Maine Department of Labor, holding positions from employment and training director to special assistant to the commissioner, as director of the dislocated worker unit while at the Department of labor, Mike identified and rectified the flaws of a reactive government approach to plant closings and worker dislocation, leading Mike to promote a more proactive approach. This resulted in Mike assisting with the design of a new strategy to provide services for these workers. His guidance led to the development of the Maine CareerCenters, which provide employment and training services to individuals at no charge. In 1996, during my time as Governor, Mike helped establish the Governor's training initiative, GTI, to provide employers with the financial support to expand training for their employees and improve retention of their workers. GTI was recognized for its success, and the following year, Governor Angus King awarded Mike the Governor's Teamwork Award for his dedication to implementing projects to improve Maine's economy and workforce. To date, GTI has helped over 20,000 Maine workers.

In 1998, the Workforce Investment Act, WIA, was passed, and Mike brought together State and local partners to organize a new regionally based workforce design in Maine, promoting a more customer-focused approach in Federal job training programs. Under WIA, Mike established Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc., in 2000, where he served as executive director for 18 years, administering over $96 million dollars for the organization. The Coastal Counties Workforce Region today spans six coastal counties and has received over 1.3 million customer visits to its centers. Over 40,000 Mainers have received essential career and training services, with 82 percent entering employment. These services have improved the well-being of Maine residents, including assisting some of our most vulnerable neighbors in finding meaningful employment, while supporting local businesses with skilled workers.

Due to Mike's commitment to workforce development and ability to secure funding for a variety of workforce initiatives and training programs throughout the years, there has been continued expansion of employment and training services for the residents of Maine. His ability to coordinate programs and foster partnerships was a critical factor in his success, whether it be at the local, State, or national level. As a champion of workforce development, Mike is deeply loved by his family, friends, and the people of Maine in thanking Mike for his unwavering service to the workforce of our State.
REMEMBERING POULDINE CARLO

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, when Alaska Native youth gather with Alaska Native elders, they often talk about the difficulties of “living in two worlds”: the modern world driven by careers, technology, busy all the time; and the traditional world, where the elders coached them in traditional teachings, preparing them for the future. They were their children’s first teachers, instilling in them the values and perspectives that had been passed down from generation to generation. The elders were the keepers of the culture and the traditions, and they passed on their knowledge to the younger generation.

Poldine was born December 5, 1920, in Tanana, Alaska. She grew up in a community where the elders were highly regarded as matriarchs and culture bearers. Both will long be remembered for their wisdom and their integrity. Among the Athabascan peoples of interior Alaska, two names stand out: Hannah Solomon and Poldine Carlo. Hannah Solomon and Poldine Carlo.

Native people who are well known for being chiefs of their tribes or regions, others are regarded as matriarchs and culture bearers. Both were in a league of their own, so people and especially to the youth.

Hannah Solomon passed away at the age of 97. She was buried in the Athabascan village of Nulato this week. Both will long be remembered for their loving kindness to their Native people and especially to the youth. Both were in a league of their own, so to speak.

I would like to take a few moments to share Poldine’s story with my Senate colleagues and to pay tribute to this remarkable woman.

Poldine was born December 5, 1920, in Nulato, a traditional community on the Yukon River. She was raised by Joseph and Anna Stickman, her grandparents. She credited her grandmother with instilling the traditional Athabascan ways of life in Poldine. She met her husband, Bill, in Tanana, at the confluence of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers, the place where the rivers meet. Poldine married Bill in 1940, and they raised their eight children along the Athabascan River in the traditional ways. Poldine and her husband Bill also operated a mine outside of Rampart in the summers for 20 years. Poldine’s sons and husband operated the mine, while she did the cooking and cleaning. It was a true family operation.

In 1957, Bill and Poldine relocated in Fairbanks so that their children could attend high school without leaving home. In those days, Native children in the village were sent off to boarding school for high school. Even though they had a full house with eight children, there was always room for more. They took in many village children so that all children could have access to educational opportunities in Fairbanks.

Their home became a gathering place for the Fairbanks Native community. From those gatherings came the decision to create the Fairbanks Native Association, which has grown and grown over the years. Life was not so easy for Native people in Fairbanks in the early 1960s. Poldine was committed to justice for her Native people. The Fairbanks Native Association administers many important wellness programs, but first and foremost, it ensures that Native people are treated fairly.

She was active in the Tanana Chiefs Conference and in the regional Native Corporation. Doyin’s son Wally served as chairman of the board of directors of Doyin. Poldine shared her wisdom in many ways. She was an elder in residence at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She authored the book, “Nulato: an Indian life on the Yukon.” Her beadwork was breathtaking. People loved her singing. Eagle Island Blues was a song people loved to hear her sing, but Blueberry Hill was her and Bill’s song. She sang about Denali in Athabascan to greet President Obama when he traveled to Alaska. She composed songs for her husband, daughter, and son when they passed away.

Poldine humbly accepted many awards during her lifetime of service to Alaska and the Native community. She was awarded an honorary doctor of law degree by the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Hannah Solomon “Woman of Courage” award from the Alaska Federation of Natives. She was a Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction, a Golden Citizen Chieftain, and a Howard Rock Alaska Native Leader. She was recently inducted into the Alaska Women’s Hall of Fame, joining her friend and contemporary Hannah Solomon.

Poldine’s son Wally was kind enough to share some of his mother’s final words with me, knowing that they would be part of her tribute. Poldine told Wally that she lived a full life and lived every day as though it was your last, and she offered this advice: “You need to be happy. All that matters is how you raise your family and to be happy.”

Yes, Poldine was proud of family, and she had much to be proud of. Those children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren who are making their own contributions to our Native people and our State in her image, like Dr. Nikoosh Carlo, who is one of the Nation’s most influential figures on Arctic science, has asked that her survivors and friends in the community “carry on,” and I have no doubt that they will.

On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I extend my condolences to Poldine’s exceptional family, her huge extended family, and the Native people of interior Alaska who took inspiration from her example. A traditional woman, a community leader, writer, artist, singer, she will always remain Miss Poldine Carlo. She connected us to our roots and encouraged our wings.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and other matters referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13303 OF MAY 22, 2003, WITH RESPECT TO THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MAY 18, 2018—PM 40

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2018.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I
have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA THAT TAKES ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13692 ON MARCH 8, 2015—PM 41

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order with respect to Venezuela that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13608 of August 24, 2017, and Executive Order 13627 of March 19, 2018.

The Executive Order I have issued today prohibits transactions related to, provision of financing for, and other dealings in (i) the purchase of any debt owed to the Government of Venezuela, including accounts receivable; (ii) any debt owed to the Government of Venezuela that is pledged as collateral after the effective date of the Executive Order, including accounts receivable; and (iii) the sale, transfer, assignment, or pledge as collateral by the Government of Venezuela of any equity interest in any entity in which the Government of Venezuela has a 50 percent or greater ownership interest.

I have authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including promulgating rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by EEEDA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Executive Order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued today.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 18, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 35. An act to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

S. 1285. An act to allow the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Klamath Tribes, and the Burns Paiute Tribes to lease or transfer certain lands.

H.R. 3652. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4009. An act to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, and construct a central parking facility on the National Zoological Park property in the District of Columbia.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bills were signed on May 18, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2872. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, investigation, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment and discrimination, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on May 21, 2018, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 35. An act to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

S. 1285. An act to allow the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Klamath Tribes, and the Burns Paiute Tribes to lease or transfer certain lands.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5209. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances’’ (FRL No. 9976–42) received in the Office of the Federal Register on May 17, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5210. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Coordination, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ‘‘Pfizer Year 2017 Annual Report on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Advisory Committee Vacancies and Public Disclosures’’; to the Committees on Appropriations; and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5211. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ‘‘2018 Report to Congress on Sustainable Ranges’’; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5212. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report entitled, ‘‘Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs: FY2018 Activities; Defense Cooperation Account’’ and a semiannual listing of personal property contributed by coalition partners; to the Committee on Armed Services.


EC–5214. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ‘‘Report to Congress on Distribution of Department of Defense Depot Maintenance Workforce Financial Results FY2017 through FY2019’’; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5215. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ‘‘Report to Congress on Corrosion Policy and Oversight Budget Materials for Fiscal Year 2019’’; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5216. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People’s Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5217. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Suspension of Community Eligibility (Pennsylvania: Catharine, Town- ship; and Blair County, et al.)’’ (Docket No. FEMA–2018–0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5218. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Revised Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standard CIP–003–7 - Cyber Security - Security Management Controls’’ (Docket No. AD1902–A24) (Docket No. RM17–11–000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5219. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ‘‘National Priorities List’’ (FRL No. 9978–14) received in the Office of the
President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5220. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Labeling: Revision of the Nutrition Facts Label; and Establishing Certain Reference Amounts Customarily Consumed; Serving Size for Breath Mints; and Technical Amendments; Extension of Compliance Dates" (RIN 0910–AH49 (Docket No. FDA–2017–N–7007) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5223. A communication from the Deputy Inspector General for Inspections and Enforcement, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Laboratory and Animal Health Services Met Many Requirements of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 but Did Not Fully Comply for Fiscal Year 2017"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.


EC–5225. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA) Freedom of Information Act Program" (RIN 70079–A362) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5227. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Security Agency (NSA) Freedom of Information Act Program" (RIN 0910–AD68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5233. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Reconnaissance Office Freedom of Information Act Program" (RIN 70079–A362) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2018, to the Committee on the Judiciary.


EC–5235. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA) Freedom of Information Act Program" (RIN 70079–A362) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2018, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated.

POM–231. A resolution adopted by the Board of Education of Manville Public Schools, Manville, New Jersey, urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to identify and implement meaningful action to address access to and ownership of military-style assault weapons and ammunition, the delivery of firearms, and support to ensure a safe and secure school climate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1386. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-250).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 1457. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out demonstration projects relating to advanced nuclear reactor technologies to support domestic energy needs (Rept. No. 115-251).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1799. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to facilitate the commercialization of energy and related technologies developed at Department of Energy facilities with promising commercial potential (Rept. No. 115-252).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred to:

By Mr. MARKERT:

S. 2886. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to reinstate the ban on the export of crude oil and natural gas produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 2897. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the establishment and operation of reserve component civil support teams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2888. A bill to amend ‘‘Title VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs that support interprofessional geriatric education, training, and advance research to develop a geriatric-capable workforce, improving health outcomes for a growing and diverse aging American population and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 2889. A bill to establish the Medgar Evers National Monument in the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORYN:

S. 2890. A bill to improve the prosecution of crimes committed by justices on military installations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

S. 2887. A bill to amend title IX and XXI of the Social Security Act to authorize States to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through enhanced pediatric health homes, and for other purposes.

S. 458. A resolution reaffirming support for increased media diversity, recognizing May 2018 as ‘‘National Media Diversity Month’’; and encouraging appreciation, awareness, diversity, and local media entities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. NELSON, Mr. THOMAS, Ms. CORTEZ MARTOS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. JONES, Ms. WARNER, and Ms. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 517. A resolution designating May 2018 as ‘‘Older Americans Month’’; and considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. Res. 518. A resolution reaffirming support for increased media diversity, recognizing May 2018 as ‘‘National Media Diversity Month’’, and encouraging appreciation, awareness, diversity, and local media entities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 266

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 428, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to authorize States to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through enhanced pediatric health homes, and for other purposes.

S. 548

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 548, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to address the psychological, developmental, social, and emotional needs of children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 802

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 802, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Lawrence Eugene ‘‘Larry’’ Doby in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American major league athletics, civil rights, and the Armed Forces during World War II.

S. 1008

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 808, a bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

S. 915

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 915, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1112

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MARTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 1270

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Massachusettas (Ms. WARNEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1270, a bill to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes.

S. 1397

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1347, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prevent catastrophic out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

S. 1398

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MARTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1398, a bill to establish a tax credit for on-site apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to enhance the transparency, improve the coordination, and intensify the impact of assistance to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced children and persons, including women and girls, and for other purposes.
At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1589, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1861 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1996

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer’s Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

S. 2364

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. RANKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2364, a bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to provide to State infrastructure financing authorities additional opportunities to receive loan or grant funding to support drinking water and clean water State revolving funds to deliver water infrastructure to communities across the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 2379

At the request of Mr. KAINES, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARSON) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2379, a bill to improve and expand authorities, programs, services, and benefits for military spouses and military families, and for other purposes.

S. 2415

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2415, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment of certain Medicaid providers and suppliers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2418

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2418, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that establish a national standard for determining whether mobile and broadband services available in rural areas are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas.

S. 2494

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2494, a bill to provide standards for short-term limited duration health insurance policies.

S. 2497

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2497, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2506

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Udall) were added as cosponsors of S. 2506, a bill to establish an aviation maintenance workforce development pilot program.

S. 2509

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet) were added as cosponsors of S. 2559, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to implement the Marrakesh Treaty, and for other purposes.

S. 2567

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2567, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

S. 2591

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2591, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 2602

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2602, a bill to support carbon dioxide utilization and direct air capture research, to facilitate the permitting and development of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration projects and carbon dioxide pipelines, and for other purposes.

S. 2625

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Shelby) were added as cosponsors of S. 2652, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason.

S. 2724

At the request of Mr. DUBBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. Harris) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2724, a bill to reform the use of solitary confinement and other forms of restrictive housing in the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes.

S. 2797

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2787, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify and expand food assistance provisions and to authorize the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2800

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2806, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2823

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2810, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient, non-union labor employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 2823

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. Hyde-Smith), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono) and the Senator from Nebraska (Ms. Cortez Masto) were added as cosponsors of S. 2823, a bill to modernize copyright law, and for other purposes.

S. 2823

At the request of Mr. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2852, a bill to require a study of the well-being of the newspaper and publishing industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2843

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Ms. Portman) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2442, a bill to prohibit the marketing of bogus opioid treatment programs or products.

S. RES. 319

At the request of Mr. Brown, the name of the Senator from Tennessee
need 3.1,000 geriatricians and even more geriatric health professionals and direct service workers. We need to train 1,600 geriatricians per year over the next 12 years to reach the targeted need by 2030.

As many as 90 percent of older adults are expected to have one or more chronic health conditions. Multiple chronic conditions, multiple medications, and changes that occur in aging make caring for older adults complex and challenging, yet also rewarding to the healthcare professionals who choose this specialty. In any given year, it is expected that 30 percent of older adults and their families will require specialized geriatric care.

Today there are 44 geriatric workforce enhancement programs or GWEPs in 29 states. GWEP sites include 25 schools of medicine, ten schools of nursing, five healthcare facilities, two schools of allied health, a school of social work, and a certified nurse assistant program. GWEPs have the flexibility to tailor training in geriatrics to the unique needs of their own communities.

GWEP programs focus on Geriatric Education by:
1. Changing clinical training environments so that geriatrics is integrated into primary care delivery systems;
2. Training providers to assess and address the needs of older adults, their families, and caregivers at multiple levels within their communities;
3. Delivering community-based programs for patients, families and caregivers; and
4. Providing Alzheimer’s disease education for families and caregivers, including direct care workers and other providers.

In 2016, the 44 GWEPs produced significant outcomes. They provided continuing education courses to 94,000 practicing public health professionals, from disciplines such as medicine, nursing, allied health, health services administration, social work, and psychology. They have also created opportunities for healthcare providers in rural and underserved areas to learn from and consult with top experts in geriatric care through tele-consults, and educational webcasts, as well as online geriatric education programs that are publicly available and accessible online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for free.

GACA programs focus on Resource Optimization. Established in 1998, GACA programs were funded to increase the number of faculty engaged in geriatric education. Transitioning from clinical training and practice into an academic faculty role is particularly challenging, and requires gaining new skills as an educator. These skills are not typically taught in clinical training programs.

Following a restructuring of the geriatric workforce program, GACA has gone unfunded since 2015. GACA would be reauthorized as a stand-alone resource within our legislation in order to optimize future growth and stability of early-career geriatric faculty. GACA supports early career development for emerging leaders by providing funding that supports 50 percent of their effort to develop skills as an inter-professional educator in geriatrics.

The Geriatrics Workforce Improvement Act would reauthorize the GWEI program at $45 million per year over the next five years, and reauthorize GACA at $6 million per year. Together, these programs would train the current workforce and family caregivers, while simultaneously developing a cadre of emerging leaders in geriatric education, in a variety of disciplines. By doing both, we will assure that older Americans will be cared for by a health care workforce specifically trained to meet their unique and complex health needs for decades to come. This training to use the most efficient and effective methods for older adults will result in improved care while saving valuable resources, and reducing unnecessary costs.

Exposure to geriatrics, particularly through pre-clinical and clinical education, has been identified as an important factor for increasing interest in the field. This exposure provides faculty the opportunities needed to demonstrate the specialty is a viable, complex, yet rewarding specialty. The Geriatrics Workforce Improvement Act would provide these critical platforms by creating the infrastructure needed to attract the best and the brightest into the field of geriatrics.

This legislation already has broad support. I ask to enter into the record a letter of support from the National Association for Geriatric Education and the National Association of Geriatric Education Centers.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation that would ensure geriatric education for our current workforce, while optimizing resources for future academic careers in geriatrics. Together, GWEI and GACA would develop a high-quality geriatric workforce ready to provide care for Americans as we grow older.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GERIATRIC EDUCATION, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTERS, May 21, 2018.

HON. SUSAN COLLINS, Chair, Special Committee on Aging, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

HON. BOB CASEY, Ranking Member, Special Committee on Aging, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
to prepare the geriatrics workforce for the aging of our population. We and the growing numbers of older adults, caregivers, and clinicians caring for elders will urge Congress to move quickly to pass your bill and provide the resources to address our nation’s growing demand for geriatric care.

We appreciate the many discussions that your staff facilitated with NAGE, as well as with the ElderCare Workforce Alliance, the American Geriatrics Society, and The Gerontological Society of America during the process of developing this legislation. This authorization and related funding is needed for the development of a health care workforce specifically trained to care for older adults and their family caregivers. Currently there are only 44 GWEP sites in 29 states. The modest increase in the authorization in your bill will have an important impact on training in geriatric care. Likewise, the funds you have authorized for the GACA program will assist in ensuring that rural and underserved areas will have geriatrics education programs.

NAGE is a non-profit membership organization representing GWEP sites, Centers on Aging, and Geriatric Education Centers that provide education and training to health professionals in the areas of geriatrics and gerontology. Our mission is to help America’s healthcare workforce be better prepared to render age-appropriate care to today’s older Americans and those of tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued support for geriatrics education programs.

Sincerely,

MAURA BRENNAN, MD, FACP, AGSF, FAAPM, CMD,
President NAGE/ NAGEC: Project Director, Baystate Health, Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program; Chief, Div. of Geriatrics, Palliative Care & Post-Acute Medicine; Prof. of Medicine, Univ. of Massachusetts-Baystate; Adjunct Prof. of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2890. A bill to improve the prosecution of offenses committed by juveniles on military installations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2890

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. RELINQUISHMENT OF LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any military installation or portion of a military installation of which legislative jurisdiction of criminal offenses committed by juveniles is retained by the United States as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall seek to relinquish to the State, Commonwealth, territory, or possession concerned legislative jurisdiction of such offenses such that the United States and the State, Commonwealth, territory, or possession, as the case may be, have concurrent legislative jurisdiction of such offenses.

(b) MANNER OF RELINQUISHMENT.—Legislative jurisdiction shall be relinquished pursuant to subsection (a) in the manner provided in section 2683(a) of title 10, United States Code.

(c) DEADLINE.—The Secretaries concerned shall, to the extent practicable, complete relinquishment of legislative jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (a) by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Secretary concerned shall submit to Congress a report on the relinquishment of legislative jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report of a Secretary under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) A list of the installations or portions of installations under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of which exclusive legislative jurisdiction of criminal offenses committed by juveniles is retained by the United States as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) A list of the installations or portions of installations pursuant to subparagraph (A) for which legislative jurisdiction was relinquished pursuant to subsection (a) as of the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) A list of the installations or portions of installations listed pursuant to subparagraph (A) for which legislative jurisdiction was not relinquished pursuant to subsection (a) as of the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘Secretary concerned’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(9) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 2. CONSIDERATION OF PROSECUTION BY FEDERAL PROSECUTORS OF FELONY OFFENSES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WITH CONCURRENT FEDERAL-STATE LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION WHEN STATE PROSECUTORS DECLINE TO PROSECUTE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with such regulations as the Attorney General may prescribe, the Federal Government shall consider the prosecution of offenses in each circumstance described in subsection (b).

(b) COVERED CIRCUMSTANCES.—A circumstance described in this subsection is any circumstance involving an alleged felony offense of a juvenile on a military installation for which legislative jurisdiction of such offense of the Federal Government is concurrent with legislative jurisdiction of such offense by a State, Commonwealth, territory, or possession in which the Commission determined not to recommend the bringing of charges against the alleged offender to a Federal prosecutor or the prosecutor of a State, Commonwealth, territory, or possession.

(c) FELONY OFFENSE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘felony offense’ means an offense punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of more than one year.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT OF FELONY OFFENSES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than March 31 each year, each Secretary concerned shall submit to Congress a report on the disposition of alleged felony offenses committed by juveniles on military installations under the control of such Secretary, including installations in foreign countries, during the previous calendar year.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under this section shall include, for the calendar year covered by such report, a list of all alleged felony offenses committed by juveniles on military installations under the control of the Secretary, aggregated by installation, and the information for each alleged offense as follows:

(1) Nature of the alleged offense.

(2) Age and other appropriate data on the alleged offender, including, if any, the alleged offender to the Armed Forces.

(3) Age and other appropriate data on each victim, including the connection, if any, of such victim to the Armed Forces.

(4) Results of the investigation. If any, of the alleged offense by any military, Federal, State, or local law enforcement or criminal investigation organization.

(5) If as a result of an investigation as described in paragraph (4), a determination was made not to recommend the bringing of charges against the alleged offender, whether to a Federal prosecutor or the prosecutor of a State, Commonwealth, territory, or possession, the justification for such determination.

(6) If as a result of an investigation as described in paragraph (4), a determination was made to recommend the bringing of charges against the alleged offender to a Federal prosecutor, whether or not the prosecutor subsequently met with the victim or victims as provided for in section 3771 of title 18, United States Code.

(7) If a Federal prosecutor declined to bring charges against the alleged offender described in paragraph (4), a determination was made not to recommend the bringing of charges against the alleged offender to a Federal prosecutor, whether or not the prosecutor subsequently met with the victim or victims as provided for in section 3771 of title 18, United States Code.

(8) If a Federal prosecutor declined to bring charges against the alleged offender described in paragraph (4), the justification for such determination.

SEC. 4. COORDINATION WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall take appropriate actions to ensure that information on actions of Federal prosecutors that is required for purposes of paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection (b) is submitted promptly to the Secretaries concerned for inclusion in the reports required by subsection (a).

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ‘felony offense’ means an offense punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of more than one year.

(2) The term ‘Secretary concerned’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(9) of title 10, United States Code.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 517—DESIGNATING MAY 2018 AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BURRE, Mr. NELSON, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. JONES, Ms. HAYDEN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution: which was considered and agreed to:
WHEREAS, in 1963, only approximately 17,000,000 individuals living in the United States were age 65 or older, approximately 1/3 of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States:

WHEREAS, in 2017, there were more than 51,600,000 individuals age 65 or older in the United States, and those individuals account for 15 percent of the total population of the United States:

WHEREAS approximately 10,000 individuals in the United States turn age 65 each day;

WHEREAS more than 9,228,000 veterans of the Armed Forces were age 65 or older:

WHEREAS older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) (including the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.)), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care:

WHEREAS the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides—

(1) supportive services to help individuals in the United States who are age 60 or older maintain maximum independence in the homes and communities of those individuals; and

(2) funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, to assist more than 11,000,000 older individuals in the United States each year;

WHEREAS, compared to older individuals in the United States in past generations, older individuals in the United States in 2018 are working longer, living longer, and enjoying healthier, more active, and more independent lifestyles;

WHEREAS more than 5,600,000 individuals in the United States age 65 or older continue to work as full-time, year-round employees;

WHEREAS, in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

WHEREAS older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, the arts, cultural activities, and activities relating to civic and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance the access of older individuals to quality and affordable health care will—

(1) encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of those individuals; and

(2) ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of those individuals: Now, therefore, by the

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2018 as “Older Americans Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public recognition of the ongoing achievements of the older individuals;

(B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) encouraging older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities across the United States.

S. RES. 518

Mr. HELLER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

WHEREAS the principle that an informed and engaged electorate is critical to a vibrant democracy is deeply rooted in the laws of free speech in the United States and underpins the virtues on which the United States has established the Constitution of the United States and the tenets of citizenship, which are, as presented in the Preamble to the Constitution, “We the people of the United States in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity”;

WHEREAS an independent, diverse, and local media that provides exposure to a broad range of viewpoints and the ability to contribute to the political debate is central to sustaining that informed engagement by all citizens of the United States;

WHEREAS varying media entities play a significant role in how constituents are exposed to news and discussions that impact the ability of constituents—

(1) to learn about and debate local, State, and national issues; stability and security of the United States; and

(2) to effectively monitor their representatives;

WHEREAS Congress recognizes the central role of mass communication and encourages source, content, and audience diversity on the shared telecommunications and media platforms of the United States;

WHEREAS encouraging diversity is important to an independent and diverse media outlets that serve diverse audiences and local media markets;

WHEREAS, 50 years after the Kerner Commission reports, which recommended a more diverse and engaged electorate is critical to a vital democracy is deeply rooted in the laws of free speech in the United States and underpins the virtues on which the United States has established the Constitution of the United States and the tenets of citizenship, which are, as presented in the Preamble to the Constitution, “We the people of the United States in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity”;

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to diversity as a core tenet of the “public interest standard” in media policy;

(2) pledges to work with media entities and civic stakeholders to develop common-ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity; and

(3) establishes May 2018 as “National Media Diversity Month,” which it encourages to form media efforts that promote diversity and support.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2253. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2254. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2255. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2256. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2257. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2258. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2259. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2260. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2261. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2262. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2263. Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2253. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 8, line 4, insert “and” after the

amendment intended to be proposed by him

to lie on the table.

On page 8, strike line 7 through line 20. Beginning on page 127, strike line 3 and all that follows through page 174, line 16.

SA 2254. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 513. IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION BY REQUIRING REPORTING OF MAJOR ADVERSE ACTIONS TAKEN TO NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATA BANK AND STATE LICENSING BOARDS.

Section 7461 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following subsection:

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2253. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 8, line 4, insert “and” after the

amendment intended to be proposed by him

to lie on the table.

On page 8, strike line 7 through line 20. Beginning on page 127, strike line 3 and all that follows through page 174, line 16.

SA 2254. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 513. IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION BY REQUIRING REPORTING OF MAJOR ADVERSE ACTIONS TAKEN TO NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATA BANK AND STATE LICENSING BOARDS.

Section 7461 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following subsection:

SEC. 513. IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION BY REQUIRING REPORTING OF MAJOR ADVERSE ACTIONS TAKEN TO NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATA BANK AND STATE LICENSING BOARDS.

Section 7461 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following subsection:

SEC. 513. IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION BY REQUIRING REPORTING OF MAJOR ADVERSE ACTIONS TAKEN TO NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATA BANK AND STATE LICENSING BOARDS.

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Section 7461 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following subsection:

SEC. 513. IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION BY REQUIRING REPORTING OF MAJOR ADVERSE ACTIONS TAKEN TO NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATA BANK AND STATE LICENSING BOARDS.

Section 7461 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following subsection:
“(f) Whenever the Under Secretary for Health (or an official designated by the Under Secretary) brings charges based on conduct or performance against a section 7401(c) employee to pay for medical charges a major adverse action is taken against the employee, the Under Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after the date on which such major adverse action is carried out, transmit to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the applicable State licensing board the name of the employee, a description of the major adverse action, and a description of the reason for the major adverse action.”.

SA 2255. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 307. PILOT PROGRAM ON EXPEDIENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROCESS FOR ONBOARDING NEW MEDICAL PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of expediting the onboarding process for new medical providers of the Veterans Health Administration. Under the pilot program, the Secretary shall seek to reduce the length of time of such onboarding process to not more than 60 days.

(b) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall select medical facilities at which to carry out the pilot program. In selecting such facilities, the Secretary shall give priority to medical facilities facing hiring shortages of licensed independent providers.

(c) ONBOARDING PROCESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “onboarding process” means the process of bringing on a medical provider applicant after the medical provider has been offered a tentative position, including credentialing, background investigation, assessment of health status, and such other actions necessary for starting employment.

SA 2256. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 307. STRATEGY TO REDUCE DURATION OF HIRING PROCESS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a strategy to reduce the duration of the hiring process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for licensed professional medical providers by half.

(b) EXPEDITED CERTIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include a description of how the overall certification of credentials process for licensed professional medical providers can be expedited.

SA 2257. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

(ii) Section 7302(e) of such title.

(iii) Section 301(b)(2) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 7302 note).

(iv) Instructions issued as to the criteria for becoming eligible to participate in the program.

(3) veterans overwhelmingly report that they are satisfied with the care they receive at facilities operated by the VA;

(4) research has shown that the VA produces as good or better outcomes for its patients than private health care systems; and

(5) the Senate opposes any effort that would weaken the VA or put the VA on a path toward privatization.

SA 2258. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 513. APPROPRIATION OF AMOUNTS FOR HEALTH CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146) established the Veterans Choice Program under section 101 of such Act (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) as a temporary program to address a wait time backlog for the receipt of health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and a shortage of health care professionals at medical facilities of the Department;

(2) as of the date of the enactment of this Act, there are approximately 45,000 vacancies at the Veterans Health Administration; and

(3) of those vacancies, approximately 36,000 are vacancies for positions relating to front line care for veterans;

(b) APPROPRIATION OF AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $5,200,000,000 to carry out subsection (d).

(c) Availability of amounts.—The amount appropriated under subsection (b) shall be available for obligation or expenditure without fiscal year limitation.

(d) Use of amounts.—The amount appropriated under subsection (b) shall be used by the Secretary as follows:

(1) To increase the access of veterans to care as follows:

(A) To hire primary care and specialty care physicians for employment in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) To hire other medical staff, including the following:

(i) Physicians.

(ii) Nurses.

(iii) Social workers.

(iv) Mental health professionals.

(v) Dental professionals.

(vi) Other health care professionals as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(C) To pay for expenses, equipment, and other costs associated with the hiring of primary care physicians, specialty care physicians, and other medical staff under subparagraphs (A) and (B);

(2) To improve the physical infrastructure of the Department as follows:

(A) To maintain and operate hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other facilities of the Veterans Health Administration;

(B) To enter into contracts or hire temporary employees to repair, alter, or improve facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department that are not otherwise provided for under this paragraph.

(D) To carry out minor construction projects of the Department.

SA 2259. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 127, line 5, strike “201” and insert “200”.

On page 127, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. 201. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) a strong and fully resourced Veterans Health Administration (referred to in this section as the “VA”) is necessary to effectively serve our veterans community;

(2) veterans overwhelmingly report that they are satisfied with the care they receive at facilities operated by the VA;

(3) research has shown that the VA produces as good or better outcomes for its patients than private health care systems; and

(4) the Senate opposes any effort that would weaken the VA or put the VA on a path toward privatization.
(B) SENATE DESIGNATION.—In the Senate, this subsection is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

On page 124, line 3, insert “or illness” after “serious injury”.

SA 2260. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 513. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF ALTERNATIVE DENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR DENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR VETERANS IN RURAL AND OTHER UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

(a) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a demonstration program to establish programs to train and employ alternative dental health care providers in order to increase access to dental health care services for veterans who are entitled to such services from the Department of Veterans Affairs and reside in rural and other underserved communities.

(b) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize the establishment of programs under the demonstration program under this section in States that do not have a facility of the Department that offers on-site dental services.

(c) TELEHEALTH.—For purposes of alternative dental health care providers and other dental care providers who are licensed to provide clinical research that would be permitted by subsection (a) of section 7402 of title 38, United States Code, in violation of subsection (f) of such section because the individual had a license, registration, or certification applicable to the provision of hospital care or a medical service terminated for cause.

(c) REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “representative sample” means with respect to a covered individual, a collection of cases that is generated through the use of sampling methods commonly used in clinical research that would be representative of the care provided to all of the individuals cared for by the covered individual.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There shall be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out the demonstration program under this section.

(e) ALTERNATIVE DENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “alternative dental health care providers” has the meaning given that term in section 346G–1(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296g–1(a)(2)).

SA 2261. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike title II.

SA 2262. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 164. CLARIFICATION THAT VETERANS ARE NOT LIABLE FOR AMOUNTS IMPROPERLY PAID TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS DUE TO AN ERROR MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 164(a), as amended by section 161 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) If a family caregiver of an eligible veteran is found to be ineligible for the program required by paragraph (1) due to an error made by the Department, the eligible veteran shall not be liable for any payments made by the Department to the family caregiver.”.

SA 2263. Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 513. THIRD PARTY REVIEW OF APPOINTEES IN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION WHO HAD A LICENSE, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATION FOR THE PROVISION OF HOSPITAL CARE OR A MEDICAL SERVICE REVOKED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract or other agreement with an organization that is not part of the Federal Government to conduct a clinical review of a representative sample of the care provided by covered individuals.

(b) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, a covered individual is an individual who was appointed to a position in the Veterans Health Administration covered by subsection (b) of section 7402 of title 38, United States Code, in violation of subsection (f) of such section because the individual had a license, registration, or certification applicable to the provision of hospital care or a medical service terminated for cause.

(c) REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “representative sample” means with respect to a covered individual, a collection of cases that is generated through the use of sampling methods commonly used in clinical research that would be representative of the care provided to all of the individuals cared for by the covered individual.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 21, 2018, at 5 p.m. to hold a hearing.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2872

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2872) to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, investigation, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment and discrimination, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 517, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 517) designating May 2018 as “Older Americans Month.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 517) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 22: further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed. Further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Baldacci nomination under the previous order. Finally, I ask that
the Senate recess following the cloture vote with respect to the House message to accompany S. 2372 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:22 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHERITH NORMAN CHALET, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

CHERITH NORMAN CHALET, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM.

JOHN RAKOLTA, JR., OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND plenipotentiary OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

DONALD R. TAPIA, OF ARIZONA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND plenipotentiary OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAMAICA.